

A LIST OF SPECIMENS OF THE ORDER CETACEA IN THE QUEENSLAND MUSEUM

R.A. PATERSON
P.O. Box 160
Annerley, Queensland, 4103

INTRODUCTION

Three suborders are recognised in the Order Cetacea. They are the Archaeoceti, which are extinct and not represented in the Queensland Museum collection, the Mysticeti and the Odontoceti. Jaggard (1884) and de Vis (1884) first reported details of cetacean specimens in the Queensland Museum. The present review of the collection has been prepared in the centenary year of its establishment. The Queensland coastline lies between latitudes 10°S and 28°S and the collection is dominated by species which frequent tropical and temperate coastal waters.

The sequence of classification follows that suggested by Fraser and Purves (1960) and adopted by Watson (1981). The family Ziphiidae is presented according to Moore (1968). Common names currently used in Australia precede those recommended by Watson (1981). Details of each specimen are listed as follows: registration number, date of registration, donor or collector (if known), collection site, method of discovery, material present. The abbreviation QM is used for the Queensland Museum.

Sub-Order MYSTICETI (baleen whales) Family BALAENOPTERIDAE

Balaenoptera musculus Linnaeus, 1785
Blue whale

J4807, 16.10.1928, W.K. Cleeve, Couti Uti (22°20'S, 150°07'E), stranding, baleen.

Balaenoptera acutorostrata Lacépède, 1804
Minke or Piked whale

J21708, 27.9.1971, QM staff, Currimundi (26°48'S, 153°08'E), stranding, complete skeleton.

Balaenoptera borealis Lesson, 1828
Sei whale

J21713, 6.10.1971, QM staff, Tin Can Bay Inlet (25°51'S, 153°02'E), stranding, complete skeleton.

Balaenoptera edeni Anderson, 1878
Bryde's or Tropical whale

JM4386, 12.5.1983, QM staff, Great Sandy Strait (25°38'S, 152°57'E), stranding, complete skeleton.

Megaptera novaeangliae Borowski, 1781
Humpback whale

J3343, 1.10.1919, T. Welsby, Amity Point (27°24'S, 153°26'E), stranding, skull; J4135, 23.9.1924, T.W. Murray, Jumpinpin (27°35'S, 153°27'E), stranding, radius; J6201, 1.6.1937, Hage & Perry, Jumpinpin (27°35'S, 153°27'E), stranding, auditory bones; J13166, 20.4.1959, C. Wendt, Tangalooma (27°12'S, 153°22'E), whaling operations, auditory bone; J13167, 20.4.1959, C. Wendt, Tangalooma (27°12'S, 153°22'E), whaling operations, auditory bone; JM4398, 25.6.1983, Cooloola (26°12'S, 153°05'E), stranding, pectoral fin bones. The collection of J3343 was described in detail by Welsby (1931). The complete skeleton was deposited in the QM but the skull appears to be the only surviving material.

Sub-Order ODONTOCETI (toothed whales) Family ZIPHIDAE

Ziphius cavirostris Cuvier, 1823
Cuvier's beaked or Goosebeak whale

J3262, 11.2.1919, E. Jensen, Nikenbah (25°19'S, 152°48'E), stranding, skull and one intervertebral disc. The specimen was described by Longman (1919 and 1926).

Indopacetus pacificus Longman, 1926
Longman's beaked or Indopacific beaked whale

J2106, 18.1.1915, E.W. Rawson, Mackay (21°09'S, 149°11'E), stranding, skull. This specimen is the holotype of the species and was described by Longman (1926) who named it *Mesoplodon pacificus*. Moore (1968) confirmed it as a separate species, noted that he had seen

photographs of a similar skull forwarded from Somalia and renamed it *Indopacetus pacificus*. The latter skull was described by Azzoroli (1968). This species, known only from these two skulls, is the world's rarest living whale.

Mesoplodon densirostris de Blainville, 1817
Blainville's beaked or Dense beaked whale

J4056, 31.3.1924, E. Beaman, Yeppoon (23°08'S, 150°44'E), stranding, skull; J5330, 13.5.1932, L.S. Williams, Sarina (21°24'S, 149°19'E), stranding, skull; J13600, 14.4.1966, H. Hurst, Whitsunday Group (20°10'S, 149°05'E), skull; JM4399, 27.10.1983, L.G. Nash, Moreton Island (27°12'S, 153°22'E), stranding, skull.

Mesoplodon layardii Gray, 1865
Straptooth beaked whale

J2105, 18.1.1915, W.N. Jaggard, Emu Park (23°16'S, 150°50'E), stranding, skull and seven cervical vertebrae; J3280, 15.4.1919, Southport (28°00'S, 153°26'E), stranding, vertebrae. J2105 was described by Jaggard (1884) and Longman (1926). The specimen J3280, discussed by de Vis (1884), was displayed as a fully mounted skeleton in the QM for many years. The vertebrae appear to be the only surviving material.

Family PHYSETERIDAE

Physeter macrocephalus Linnaeus, 1758
Great sperm whale

J4684, 9.11.1927, Daily Mail Ltd., Burleigh Heads (28°05'S, 153°27'E), stranding, mandible; J20422, 13.11.1970, D. Barry, Fraser Island (25°31'S, 153°08'E), stranding, incomplete skull, remainder of skeleton almost complete; JM4360, 8.2.1983, V. Bushing, Moreton Island (27°09'S, 153°25'E), stranding, incomplete skull; JM4406, 16.12.83, M. Simmons and S.M. Van Dyck, Cape Capricorn (23°29'S, 151°14'E), stranding, incomplete skull; JM4420, 30.4.1984, R.A. Paterson and S.M. Van Dyck, Dundowran (25°18'S, 152°46'E), stranding, incomplete skull, vertebrae, ribs and pectoral fin bones; JM4421, 30.4.1984, B.J. Kelly, Dundowran (25°18'S, 152°46'E), incomplete mandible. The immature skeletal elements of specimens J20422, JM4360 and JM4406 together with measurements and photographs held in the QM indicate that the whales were juveniles and it is possible that they were recently born. Specimens JM4420 and JM4421 are from the only recorded mass stranding of sperm whales in Queensland, that of

ten whales which stranded at Dundowran on 16.10.1969. The collection also includes some Great sperm whale teeth (J3406, J3837, J6407) said to have originated from the south-west Pacific region. J6407 is an example of scrimshaw.

Kogia breviceps de Blainville, 1838
Pygmy sperm whale

J5288, 26.2.1932, W.C. Thompson, Caloundra (26°48'S, 153°08'E), stranding, mandible; J5463, 2.6.1933, Brighton (27°20'S, 153°04'E), stranding, complete skeleton; JM4387 12.5.1983, Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, Woodgate (25°07'S, 152°34'E), stranding, skull.

Family STENIDAE

Sousa chinensis Osbeck, 1757
Indopacific humpback dolphin

J7443, 31.10.1949, M. Cross, Moreton Bay (27°26'S, 153°14'E), stranding, skull; J21718, 14.10.1971, T. Baird, North Stradbroke Island (27°35'S, 153°27'E), stranding, skull; JM1337, 15.4.1976, Gold Coast (28°00'S, 153°26'E), 'Sea World' dolphinarium, skull; JM2149, 24.2.1977, M.M. Bryden, Gold Coast (28°00'S, 153°26'E), shark net, complete skeleton; JM4377, 19.4.1983, V. Bushing, Moreton Island (27°12'S, 153°22'E), stranding, complete skeleton. There is an unregistered specimen of *Sousa chinensis* in the collection comprising a skull and upper cervical vertebrae.

Family GLOBICEPHALIDAE

Globicephala melaena Traill, 1809
Longfin pilot whale

J4480, 25.6.1926, T. Welsby, Point Lookout (27°26'S, 153°33'E), stranding, skull.

Globicephala macrorhynchus Gray, 1846
Shortfin pilot whale

J2104, 18.1.1915, Queensland coast (precise location not recorded), skull; J3820, 7.6.1923, N.D. Allom, Fraser Island (25°22'S, 153°07'E), stranding, skull and four vertebrae. Longman (1926) described both J2104 and J3820 as *Globicephalus melas* Traill. There are another two unregistered specimens of *Globicephala macrorhynchus* in the collection with no details as to their origin. One is a complete skeleton and the other a skull.

Pseudorca crassidens Owen, 1846

False killer whale

J937, 21.3.1913, J.H. Stevens, Townsville (19°16'S, 146°49'E), stranding, skull; J6614, 15.8.1939, J.L. Schuster, Tallebudgera (28°10'S, 153°23'E), stranding, skull; J14210, 18.2.1966, QM staff, Booral (25°17'S, 152°54'E), stranding, complete skeleton.

Feresa attenuata Gray, 1875

Pygmy killer whale

JM825, 6.11.1975, J. Evans and M.M. Bryden, Kingscliff (28°15'S, 153°36'E), stranding, complete skeleton. The specimen was described by Bryden (1976).

Peponocephala electra Nishiwaki & Norris, 1966

Melonhead whale

JM762, 7.5.1975, R. Lanham and M.M. Bryden, Tugun (28°09'S, 153°30'E), stranding, complete skeleton (skull registered JM1338, 15.4.1976); JM2032, 25.1.1977, QM staff, Moreton Island (27°11'S, 153°24'E), stranding, complete skeleton; JM2144, 24.2.1977, QM staff, Moreton Island (27°11'S, 153°24'E), stranding, skull; JM2145, 24.2.1977, QM staff, Moreton Island (27°11'S, 153°24'E), stranding, skull; JM2146, 24.2.1977, QM staff, Moreton Island (27°11'S, 153°24'E), stranding, skull; JM2147, 24.2.1977, QM staff, Moreton Island (27°11'S, 153°24'E), stranding, complete skeleton; JM2148, 24.2.1977, QM staff, Moreton Island (27°11'S, 153°24'E), stranding, complete skeleton. JM762 was described by Bryden, Dawbin and Heinsohn (1977) together with two other specimens of *Peponocephala electra* recovered from the north Queensland and New South Wales coasts. Shortly after those three specimens were described a mass stranding of fiftythree Melonhead whales occurred on Moreton Island and the measurements of one of them (JM2147) were described by Bryden, Harrison and Lear (1977).

Family DELPHINIDAE

Lagenodelphis hosei Fraser, 1956

Fraser's or Shortsnout dolphin

JM2749, 5.11.1979, M.M. Bryden and D.H. Barry, Fraser Island (25°22'S, 153°07'E), stranding, skull. The specimen was described by Bryden and Barry (1980)

Grampus griseus Cuvier, 1812

Risso's or Grey dolphin

J6317, 23.12.1937, V.M. Rooke, Cape Capricorn (23°29'S, 151°14'E), stranding, skull, sternum and flipper bones, JM3858, 25.11.1982, V. Bushing, Moreton Island (27°02'S, 153°28'E), stranding, skull.

Orcaella brevirostris Gray, 1866

Irrawaddy or Snubfin dolphin

J14263, 12.7.1966, R.K. Bryson, Townsville (19°16'S, 149°49'E), shark net, complete skeleton; JM511, 27.9.1974, S. Adams, Mackay (21°09'S, 149°11'E), shark net, complete skeleton.

Stenella coeruleoalba Meyen, 1833

Striped dolphin

JM3859, 25.11.1982, V. Bushing, Moreton Island (27°09'S, 153°25'E), stranding, skull.

Delphinus delphis Linnaeus, 1758

Common dolphin

J2776, 23.6.1916, J.H. Stevens, Moreton Bay (27°25'S, 153°20'E), stranding, skull; JM2033, 25.1.1977, M.M. Bryden, Gold Coast (28°00'S, 153°26'E), shark net, complete skeleton; JM2094, 17.2.1977, skull and flipper bones. J2776 was briefly described by Longman (1926)

Tursiops truncatus Montagu, 1821

Bottlenose dolphin

J2412, 9.7.1915, J.H. Stevens, Bustard Head (24°01'S, 151°46'E), stranding, mandible; J2647, 21.12.1915, Moreton Bay (27°25'S, 153°20'E), stranding, skull; J3849, 17.7.1923, J. Cowan, Burleigh Heads (28°05'S, 153°27'E), stranding, skull; J4155, 24.10.1924, J. Peiniger, Townsville (19°16'S, 146°49'E), stranding, skull; J5653, 27.6.1934, E.V. Stevens, Bribie Island (27°03'S, 153°10'E), stranding, skull; J6421, 25.7.1938, K. Jackson, Point Lookout (27°26'S, 153°33'E), stranding, skull; J6678, 3.6.1940, F. Eager, Mooloolaba (26°39'S, 153°06'E), stranding, head; J7015, 24.5.1944, R. Wright and E.R. Gericke, Bundaberg (24°46'S, 152°24'E), stranding, skull; JM1230, 6.2.1976, R. Dallas, Moreton Bay (27°25'S, 153°20'E), meshed during trawling, complete skeleton.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Ms J. Covacevich, Dr R.F. Molnar and Mr S.M. Van Dyck of the Queensland Museum who, at all times, were most helpful. Dr M.M. Bryden provided additional information concerning those specimens which he donated to the collection.